(c) the steps taken by the Government to identify the real culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Central Bureau of Investigation have reported that it has not recovered any AK-56 rifles and a Rocket launcher at Purrulia on 13th November, 1996.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) and (b) above.

Dharti Putra Welfare Scheme

3540. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of WELFARE be be pleased to state :

(a) the details of States selected under the "Dharti Putra Welfare Scheme" and where this scheme has already been implemented;

(b) whether a number of proposals along with the amount involved therein were submitted by the State Government of Bihar under the Dharti Purta Welfare Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken for clearance of those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Manual Scavenging

3541. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has sought eradication of manual scavenging;

(b) the States practising manual scavenging; and

(c) the steps being taken in such States for its eradication?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only Kerala and Pondicherry have been declared completely Scavenging Free. All other States problem of Scavenging persists in some form.

(c) "The National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents" was launched by the Govt. of India on 22nd March, 1992 with the objective of eliminating the inhuman practice of manual handling of night soil and filth. The main components of the scheme are :-

1. A rapid survey to identify scavengers and their dependents and their aptitute for alternative trades.
2. Training of scavengers and their Dependents.
3. Rehabilitation through implementation of projects with a prescribed funding pattern.

In addition, the programmes of conversion of dry laterines is also implemented by the Government through local bodies under the Urban Development Ministry.

Child Rapes

3542. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the percentage of child rapes has been increasing in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the comparative figure of child rape victims during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken or contemplated to be taken to curb this heinous crime against children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Available information is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The Government has taken a number of measures to prevent various modes of child abuse. A major activity undertaken under the national Child Labour project is the establishment of special schools to provide non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary nutrition, stipend, health care, etc. A high powered body for the elimination of child labour has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister. NGOs are being increasingly involved to help in the rehabilitation of child prostitutes. Adolescent girls scheme, day care centres/creches, residential schools for rescued children are some of the other schemes being implemented for child welfare.

STATEMENT

Victims of Child Rape (1992 to 1994)

	Age Group	
	Below 10 years	10 - 16 years
1992	532	2581
1993	634	2759
1994	727	3259
% change in 1993 over 1992	19.17%	6.89%
% change in 1994 over 1993	14.66%	18.12%